

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Original) A conferencing system comprising at least the following:
 - at least one voice response unit adapted to interact via a circuit-switched network with a plurality of callers, the voice response unit further adapted to support at least one conferencing application and at least one non-conferencing application;
 - at least one mixer in communication with the voice response unit via a packet-switched network, the at least one mixer adapted to support at least one conference call between at least two callers communicating with one another via the mixer and the VRU;
 - at least one data store adapted to store data representing at least one state parameter relating to at least one conference call supported by the mixer, the data store coupled to communicate with the VRU and the mixer.
7. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 6, further comprising at least a second VRU in communication with the mixer, and wherein the mixer is adapted to support a conference call including a first caller communicating via at least the first VRU and at least a second caller communicating via the second VRU.
8. (Original) The system of claim 7, further comprising at least a third VRU in communication with the mixer, and wherein the mixer is adapted to support a conference call including at least a third caller communicating via the third VRU.
9. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 6, wherein the VRU is adapted to execute the conferencing application in response to recognizing at least a first destination telephone number

dialed by at least a first caller, and wherein the VRU is adapted to execute the non-conferencing application in response to recognizing at least a second destination telephone number dialed by at least a second caller.

10. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 6, wherein the VRU is adapted to execute the conferencing application in response to recognizing at least a first DNIS parameter associated with at least a first caller, and wherein the VRU is adapted to execute the non-conferencing application in response to recognizing at least a second DNIS parameter associated with at least a second caller.

11. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 6, further comprising at least one interface server coupled between the data store and the VRU, and adapted to queue requests from at least the VRU for processing by the data store.

12. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 6, further comprising at least a second interface server coupled between the data store and the VRU, and adapted to queue requests from at least the VRU for processing by the data store.

13. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 6, further comprising a proxy server coupled to the VRU to receive conferencing-related requests from at least the VRU.

14. (Original) The system of claim 13, wherein the proxy server is adapted to communicate a request to create a new conference to the mixer.

15. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 6, further comprising at least one proxy server coupled to the VRU to receive conferencing-related requests from at least the VRU.

16. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 6, further comprising at least one interface server coupled between the data store and the VRU and adapted to queue requests from at least the VRU for processing by the data store.

17. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 6, further comprising at least a second mixer in communication with the VRU.

18. (Original) The system of claim 17, further comprising a proxy server coupled to the VRU to receive conferencing-related requests from at least the VRU, and wherein the proxy server is

adapted to submit a request to create a new conference to at least one of the mixer and the second mixer.

19. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 6, further comprising a provisioning database in communication with the VRU, the provisioning database being responsive to a conference code received from the VRU to provide a signal to the VRU indicating whether the conference code is valid.

20. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 6, further comprising a plurality of interface servers coupled between the data store and the VRU and adapted to queue requests from at least the VRU for processing by the data store, and further comprising a proxy server coupled between the VRU and the plurality of interface servers, and wherein the proxy server is adapted to perform load balancing among the interface servers.

21. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 6, wherein the mixer has associated therewith a capacity parameter that is determined on a basis other than a number of discrete hardware ports associated with a given mixer.

22. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 6, wherein the mixer does not include discrete hardware ports.

23. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 6, wherein the mixer has a variable capacity.

24. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 6, wherein the mixer has a non-fixed capacity.

25. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 6, wherein the mixer comprises general-purpose server hardware executing at least one application program adapted to at least to mix voice streams originating from respective conferees associated with at least one given conference.

26. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 6, wherein at least the VRU, the mixer, and the data store are coupled to communicate at least indirectly via a local area network.

27. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 6, wherein at least the VRU, the mixer, and the data store are coupled to communicate at least indirectly via a network employing a voice-over-IP protocol.

28. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 6, wherein at least the VRU, the mixer, and the data store are coupled to communicate at least indirectly via a packet-switched network.